

brigade was ordered back to Charleston to take part in the defense of that important seaport. The enemy had gained a footing on Morris Island, and was preparing to attack Battery Wagner, the strong earthwork the Confederates had erected to defend the entrance to the harbor of Charleston.

On the night of 18 July, 1863, the enemy made a bold assault on the work and were signally repulsed with great loss to the attacking forces, principally among the negro troops who were put in the advance. The enemy now settled down to a regular siege of the place, which lasted fifty-eight days. The approaches were in parallels, each parallel bringing the besiegers nearer to the battery. Five parallels were thus constructed, the last one approached within about one hundred yards of the Confederate works. On the night of 6 September, 1863, the Confederate troops quietly and undisturbed, evacuated the fort and retired to Sullivan's Island.

The services of the brigade in this defense of Battery Wagner were of the most trying and dangerous character. Says a member of the brigade, Historian Ludwig, of the Eighth Regiment: "The men were at all times exposed to the enemy's fire, both from the land and from the sea. An attack had to be prepared for at any instant, either night or day.

"It was no place for rest. The men had to keep under cover of the battery or in pits near by dug in the sand hills along the beach. There was no place for cooking. All the rations had to be prepared elsewhere and carried there. The water too, was bad. Under such circumstances, it was necessary to relieve the men and officers about once every seven or eight days." It must not be supposed the enemy were left undisturbed while they were making things so uncomfortable for the Confederates. It was no easy task the Federal troops were called upon to perform. Hundreds and thousands succumbed to the climate and the fire of their opponents. There was organized in Clingman's Brigade a corps of sharpshooters armed with the Whitworth (globe sighted) rifle, the first ever used in our army and imported from England. The service of this Corps was so effective under Lieutenant Dugger, of Company F, of the Eighth Regiment, and the other officers commanding this corps, that the enemy were